

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a scanner configured to scan a first document;
a memory configured to store image data corresponding to said first document;
a signal control device configured to generate a notify signal in response to said image data being stored in said memory; and
a switch control device configured to receive a first signal to display said first document on a display device, wherein said switch control device is further configured to request a transmission of a next document to be scanned, wherein said scanner is further configured to transmit said next document substantially concurrently with a displaying of said first document, and wherein said next document is not displayed on said display device unless the switch control device receives a second signal to display said next document.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a transmission device configured to transmit said first document to be scanned.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said transmission device comprises a document handling device selected from the group comprising a positive photograph holder, a negative photograph holder, and an automatic document feeder.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory comprises a buffer selected from the group comprising a ring buffer and a ping-pong buffer.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said buffer comprises two or more memory buffer blocks.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display switch configured to receive said notify signal and to display a notification of availability of said first document on said display device.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said notify signal is displayed while said next document is being scanned.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said scanning signal indicates when the scanning of said next document has finished.

9. (Previously Presented) An image scanning system, comprising:
a scanner configured to scan a first document;
a transmission device configured to transmit said first document to be scanned;
a memory configured to store image data corresponding to said first document;
a signal control device configured to produce one or more signals including a notify signal in response to the image data corresponding to said first document being stored in said memory;

a display switch configured to receive the notify signal and to display a notification of availability of said first document on a display device; and

a switch control device configured to receive a starting signal to display said first document on said display device, and further configured to notify said transmission device to transmit a second document to be scanned, wherein said display device is configured to display said first document while said second document is being scanned, and wherein said signal control device is further configured to produce a scanning signal corresponding to a scanning status of said second document.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein said transmission device comprises a document handling device selected from the group comprising a positive photograph holder, a negative photograph holder, and an automatic document feeder.

11. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein said memory comprises one or more buffers selected from the group comprising a ring buffer and a ping-pong buffer.

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein said memory comprises two or more memory buffer blocks.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein said scanning signal indicates when the scanning of said next document has finished.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 13, wherein a selection of the notification of availability causes said switch control device to receive a next image signal to display said second document on said display device in place of said first document.

15. (Currently Amended) A scanning method, comprising:
scanning a first document;
storing said first document into a memory;
receiving a starting signal;
displaying said first document;
scanning a next document substantially concurrently with the displaying of said first document, wherein said next document is not displayed while it is being scanned; and
displaying a scanning status of said next document while said first document is being displayed, wherein said scanning status indicates an availability of said next ~~second~~ document for display on said display screen.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising automatically transmitting said next document to be scanned into a scanner, wherein said next ~~second~~ document is transmitted at the same time as said first document is being scanned by said scanner.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising displaying said next document in place of said first document.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said memory comprises a buffer selected from the group comprising a ring buffer and a ping-pong buffer.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said memory comprises two or more memory buffer blocks.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein said next document is not displayed unless a second signal is received.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said notification of availability comprises an image selected from the group comprising an arrow image, a twinkling image, and an unlike color image.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein displaying said first document includes displaying said first document on a display device, and wherein said display device comprises a peripheral selected from the group comprising a television, a monitor, a liquid crystal display, and a projector.

23. (Previously Presented) A scanning method, comprising:
transmitting a first document to a scanner;
scanning said first document and storing said first document to a memory;
displaying a notification of availability on a display device to notify a user of an availability of said first document for display on said display device; and
utilizing a switch control device to receive a starting signal to display said first document on said display device, and further to notify a transmission device to transmit a second document into said scanner substantially concurrently with the displaying of said first document, wherein said second document is scanned and stored into said memory without being displayed on said display device.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said transmission device comprises a document handling device selected from the group comprising a positive photograph holder, a negative photograph holder, and an automatic document feeder.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said memory comprises a buffer selected from the group comprising a ring buffer and a ping-pong buffer.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said memory comprises two or more memory buffer blocks, and further wherein the capacity of said memory is determined by the user.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said notification of availability comprises an image selected from the group comprising an arrow image, a twinkling image, and an unlike color image.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said display device comprises a peripheral selected from the group comprising a television, a monitor, a liquid crystal display, and a projector.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a scanner configured to scan a first document and a second document;
a switch configured so that a display of said first document occurs concurrently with the scanning of said second document; and
a display screen configured to display a scanning status of said second document while displaying said first document, wherein said scanning status indicates an availability of said second document for display on said display screen, and wherein said second document is scanned without displaying said second document on said display screen.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a transmission device configured to transmit said first document to be scanned, wherein said switch is further configured to request said transmission device to transmit said second document to said scanner prior to said second document being scanned.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a signal control device configured to generate a notify signal.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said switch is further configured to receive a start signal from a user interface, and wherein the display of said first document occurs at least in part in response to receiving said start signal from said user interface.

33. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture including a computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method comprising:

scanning a first document;

storing said first document into a memory;

receiving a starting signal;

displaying said first document;

automatically transmitting a next document into a scanner substantially concurrently with the displaying of said first document, wherein said next document is configured to be scanned by said scanner without being displayed; and

scanning said next document while said first document is being displayed.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said memory comprises two or more memory buffer blocks.

36. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said method further comprises displaying a notification of availability of said next document while said next document is being scanned.

37. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said method further comprises displaying a scanning condition of said next document together with the displaying of said first document.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signal control device is further configured to determine a scanning status of said next document being scanned, and wherein said scanning status is configured to be displayed on said display device together with said first document.

39. (Previously Presented) The image scanning system according to claim 9, wherein said signal control device is further configured to produce a second notify signal in response to image data corresponding to said second document being stored in said memory.

40. (Previously Presented) The scanning method of claim 23, further comprising displaying a second notification of availability on said display device to notify said user of an availability of said second document for display on said display device.

41. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 33, wherein said next document is automatically transmitted into said scanner by a transmission device, and wherein said first document is scanned by said scanner.